

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Robert KOPETZKY *et al.*

Title: A DRIVE UNIT FOR A SAFETY BELT TENSIONER

Appl. No.: Unassigned

Filing Date: Herewith

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, directly beneath the title insert the subtitle – BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 2, between lines 9 and 10 insert the subtitle –SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 4, between lines 4 and 5 insert the subtitle --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Page 4, between lines 13 and 14 insert the subtitle --DETAILED DESCRIPTION--.

Please delete page 7 in its entirety

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-10.

Please add the following new claims 11-20.

11. A drive unit for a safety belt tensioner having a drive coupled to a belt winding reel, the drive capable of being triggered, the drive unit comprising:

~~the~~ a drive chamber configured to contain the drive and including two connected plates extending parallel to one another;

~~the~~ wherein the drive chamber includes a drive band having at least one end fastened to a drive shaft;

~~the~~ wherein the drive chamber is adapted to be exposed from one side to an expanding gas coming from a gas generator on the response of an acceleration sensor so that the drive band unwinds and thereby drives the drive shaft;

~~the~~ wherein the surface of each plate that faces the other plate is coated with a coating material configured to reduce the amount of gas that escapes through an interface between the ends of the drive band and the facing plate surfaces.

12. The drive unit of claim 11, wherein the coating material has a plurality of layers.

13. The drive unit of claim 12, wherein the coating material has layers of different materials.

14. The drive unit of claim 11, wherein the thickness of the coating material varies in different sections of the surfaces of the plate.

15. The drive unit of claim 11, wherein the coating material has one or more films.

16. The drive unit of claim 15, wherein the films for the coating of the plates are adhesive or are applied by means of an adhesive.

17. The drive unit of claim 11, wherein the coating material is soft.

18. The drive unit of claim 11, wherein the drive band includes edges partly penetrating into the coating material.

19. The drive unit of claim 11, wherein a surface-near layer of the coating material is configured to be removed by the drive band and pile up in front of the drive band in the direction of expansion on the triggering of the drive and thus additionally reduces the gas exchange through an interface between the band and the plate surfaces.

20. A safety belt tensioner having a drive unit comprising:

a drive chamber configured to contain the drive and including two connected plates extending parallel to one another;

wherein the drive chamber includes a drive band having at least one end fastened to a drive shaft;

wherein the drive chamber is adapted to be exposed from one side to an expanding gas coming from a gas generator on the response of an acceleration sensor so that the drive band unwinds and thereby drives the drive shaft;

wherein the surface of each plate that faces the other plate is coated with a coating material configured to reduce the amount of gas that escapes through an interface between the ends of the drive band and the facing plate surfaces

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application. The above amendments are being made to correct minor informalities and to place the application into U.S. filing format. No new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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